

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 26, 2019

Chairman Adam Smith  
House Armed Services Committee  
2216 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Chairman James Inhofe  
Senate Committee on Armed Services  
228 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Ranking Member Mac Thornberry  
House Armed Services Committee  
2216 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Jack Reed  
Senate Committee on Armed Services  
228 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Smith, Chairman Inhofe, Ranking Member Thornberry, and Ranking Member Reed:

As you move forward with conferencing the Fiscal Year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act, we request that you hold the House position for the CH-47F Block II program in the final conference report. Three of the four defense committees of jurisdiction have expressed strong support for the CH-47F Block II program in their FY20 marks. The history of the CH-47F Block II program shows that it performs on cost and on schedule, providing machines that the Army itself has characterized—as recently as July 2017—as necessary to modernize and advance the capability of the Army’s fleet of 473 CH-47F aircraft.

The Army’s own analysis of alternatives and its cost position found that the CH-47F Block II program saves more than \$3.2 billion in comparison to other options. The Army chose the CH-47F Block II program because it wanted advanced capabilities – specifically, the Army wanted the aircraft to lift more weight, fly at higher altitudes, and fly in hotter temperatures. With the first two developmental aircraft currently undergoing flight testing in Mesa, Arizona, and the third test aircraft beginning electromagnetic effects testing at Patuxent Naval Air Station, Maryland, the CH-47F Block II program is delivering on all three of those requirements.

We understand that the Army cites the National Security Strategy as its rationale for proposing to abandon the CH-47F Block II program. However, we are concerned that the Army’s proposal is not yet ripe, and that its premature adoption will repeat the failures of prior underdeveloped strategy changes. Abandoning large-scale acquisition programs before completion and without an effective alternative could undermine national security and/or future Army modernization efforts.

We the undersigned have critical production facilities or key suppliers in our districts that are at risk of closure should the program lapse, and so are particularly concerned with the Army's sudden change in its priorities. Our Army deserves our support to provide the best heavy lift aircraft available, and the CH-47F Block II program is delivering on that front. We thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Mary Gay Scanlon  
Member of Congress



Matt Gaetz  
Member of Congress



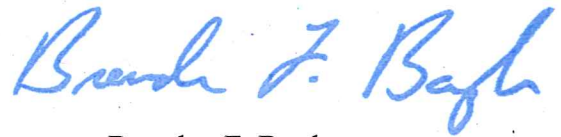
Katie Hill  
Member of Congress



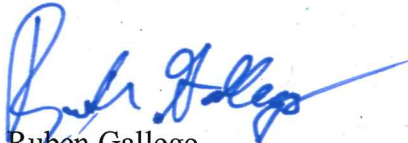
J. Luis Correa  
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress